

A wide-angle photograph of the California State Assembly chamber. The room is grand, with high ceilings, large columns, and a massive chandelier. Rows of wooden desks with microphones are arranged on both sides of a central aisle. Several people are seated at the desks, and a few are standing near the front. The floor is covered with a green carpet featuring a repeating octagonal pattern. A large black banner with white text is superimposed over the upper part of the image.

# CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY





## Your Legislature

Welcome to the California State Capitol, a historic building where history is still being made.

On days when the Assembly is in session, you can take a seat in the third floor gallery and watch this process in action, as our 80 members debate and vote on the legislation that will shape the future of California. On other days, you can see us at work in the committees that shape and refine legislation before it reaches the full Assembly.

We work in a building that has been carefully restored to reflect its original 19th century grandeur, but we work with the tools of our own time. Electronic tabulators record our votes, lap-top computers keep us informed about the latest changes in legislation, television cameras record our sessions. And in California, the state on the cutting edge of technological advances, the Assembly has its own home page on the World Wide Web. You can visit us there at <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/>.

Amid all this historic beauty and technological efficiency, the central reality of the Capitol remains unchanged. This is "The People's House," the place where the representatives of the people of California come together to do the will of the people who elected them. Here we make the laws which create a framework of freedom that gives all Californians the opportunity to pursue their dreams of a better life for themselves and their children.

Welcome to your house.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Curt Pringle".

Curt Pringle  
Speaker of the Assembly

## The California Legislature

### *The Members*

The California Legislature is composed of an Assembly and a Senate, consisting of 80 and 40 Members, respectively. Members of the Assembly are elected for two-year terms, while Senators are elected for four-year terms, with one-half of the membership elected every two years. Prior to their election, the Members of the Legislature must be over 18 years of age, United States citizens, inhabitants of California for three years, and of the district which they represent for one year.

In November 1990, California voters passed Proposition 130, an amendment to the California Constitution limiting the terms of state constitutional officers and Members of the Legislature. Under Proposition 130, Senators are restricted to two four-year terms and Members of the Assembly to three two-year terms.

Assembly and Senate districts are apportioned on the basis of population. Each Member of the Assembly represents approximately 1/80 of the people, and each Senator represents 1/40 of the population of the state. Elections for the Assembly and Senate are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years.





**Fred Aguiar**  
*Speaker pro Tempore*

The presiding officer of the Assembly is the Speaker, who is elected for a two-year term by a majority vote of the Members. The Speaker is charged with the overall management and supervision of the Assembly. In this capacity, the Speaker has general direction of the Assembly Chamber, Members' offices, staff offices and the Assembly committee meeting rooms. In addition to being the elected leader of the Assembly, the Speaker also acts as the spokesman for his party.

The Assembly also elects a Speaker pro Tempore, who exercises the powers and the duties of the Speaker during his absence, including presiding over the regular meetings of the full Assembly.

To assist him in the performance of his duties, the Speaker appoints a personal representative on the floor, who is known as the Majority Floor Leader. He assists the Speaker in the conduct of the business of the Assembly by making the appropriate motions and points of order that are necessary to expedite the proceedings of the House.

A Minority Floor Leader is designated by a caucus of the Minority members, and acts as their representative on the floor of the Assembly.

In addition to the above officers, the Assembly elects three officers who are not Members of the Assembly: a Chief Clerk, a Sergeant at Arms and a Chaplain.

The Senate is organized in a similar manner with the exception that, as provided by the Constitution, the Lieutenant Governor rather than a Member of the Senate serves as President of the Senate. He presides over the sessions of that body. The Senate does, however, elect a President pro Tempore from its own membership who acts as the presiding officer of the Senate in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor. The Senate majority and minority caucuses select their respective Floor Leaders. The Senate also elects a Secretary and a Sergeant at Arms, who are not Members of the Senate.



**James E. Rogan**  
*Majority Floor Leader*



**Richard Katz**  
*Minority Floor Leader*

## Rules Committees

The business affairs of each house are conducted by a Rules Committee.

The Chair of the Assembly Rules Committee is a Member elected by the political party having the largest number of Members in the Assembly. The Vice-Chair is elected by the political party having the second largest number of Members.

The remainder of the committee consists of ten members who are appointed by their respective caucuses.

An important function of the committee is the initial assignment of bills to the appropriate standing committees. The Rules Committee also provides clerical assistance and offices for the Assembly Members and approves the expenditures of other committees.

The President pro Tempore serves as the Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, while the other four members are elected by the Senate. Both the Assembly and Senate Rules Committees appoint the chairmen and chairwomen of the standing committees and also appoint the committee members.

In many state legislatures the rules committees perform only "housekeeping" functions. In California, the Rules Committees may consider substantive legislation in the same manner as do the policy committees in the California Legislature.



**ASSEMBLY RULES COMMITTEE – 1996**

From Left to Right: Assembly Members M. Escutia, B. Lee, K. Murray, J. Burton, Secretary K. Packard, Chief Clerk E. D. Wilson, Chairman Curt Pringle, Chief Administrative Officer J. Richardson, B. Alby, F. Aguiar, P. Knight, M. Brewer, J. Battin, B. Thompson.



# Seating in the Assembly Chamber

T.V. CAMERA

Curt  
Pringle  
Speaker

Fred  
Aguiar  
Speaker pro  
Tempore

Constantine C.  
Pappademos  
Acting Chaplain

T.V. CAMERA

Console  
Operator

Cyndy Perkut-Kelly  
Engrossing and  
Enrolling Clerk

Amy Duarte  
History Clerk

Lawrence A. Murman

Assistant  
Chief Clerk

Ralph Romo  
Chief  
Assistant Clerk

Akiba Howard  
Sue Parker  
Reading Clerks

Pam Cavileer  
Minute Clerk

E. Dotson Wilson  
Chief Clerk

Robbin  
Lewis-Coaxum  
Floor Analysis

Liz Baxter  
Secretary to the  
Chief Clerk

Karin Brown  
File Clerk

Nao  
Takasugi  
(Oxnard)

Peter  
Frusetta  
(Tres Pinos)

Marilyn  
Brewer  
(Irvine)

Bruce  
Thompson  
(Fallbrook)

Jim  
Battin  
(La Quinta)

James E.  
Rogan  
(Glendale)

Richard  
Katz  
(Sylmar)

Cruz M.  
Bustamante  
(Fresno)

Martin  
Gallegos  
(El Monte)

Grace M.  
Napolitano  
(Norwalk)

Jackie  
Speier  
(South San  
Francisco)

Liz  
Figueroa  
(Fremont)

Richard  
Rainey  
(Walnut Creek)

Gary  
Miller  
(Diamond Bar)

Brooks  
Firestone  
(Los Olivos)

Steve  
Kuykendall  
(Long Beach)

Keith  
Olberg  
(Victorville)

Fred  
Aguiar  
(Chino)

Tom  
Bates  
(Berkeley)

Susan  
Davis  
(San Diego)

Kevin  
Murray  
(Culver City)

Wally  
Knox  
(Los Angeles)

Michael  
Sweeney  
(Hayward)

Tom  
Hannigan  
(Solano  
County)

Tom  
Bordonaro  
(Paso Robles)

George  
House  
(Hughson)

Bernie  
Richter  
(Chico)

Ted  
Weggeland  
(Riverside)

Brian  
Setencich  
(Fresno)

Bill  
Hoge  
(Pasadena)

Dominic  
Cortese  
(San Jose)

Sal  
Cannella  
(Ceres)

Vacancy  
55th Dist.

Willard  
Murray  
(Paramount)

Debra  
Bowen  
(Torrance)

Diane  
Martinez  
(Monterey  
Park)

Jim  
Cunneen  
(San Jose)

Bruce  
McPherson  
(Santa Cruz)

Charles  
Poochigian  
(Fresno)

Jan  
Goldsmith  
(Poway)

William J.  
"Pete" Knight  
(Palmdale)

Steve  
Baldwin  
(El Cajon)

Dede  
Alpert  
(San Diego)

Antonio  
Villaraigosa  
(Los Angeles)

Kerry  
Mazzoni  
(San Rafael)

Martha M.  
Escutia  
(Bell)

Joe  
Baca  
(San  
Bernardino)

John  
Vasconcellos  
(Santa Clara)

Tom  
Woods  
(Shasta)

Brett  
Granlund  
(Yucaipa)

Phil  
Hawkins  
(Cerritos)

Bob  
Margett  
(Arcadia)

Howard  
Kaloogian  
(Carlsbad)

David  
Knowles  
(Placerville)

Denise M.  
Ducheny  
(San Diego)

Phillip  
Isenberg  
(Sacramento)

Barbara  
Friedman  
(Los Angeles)

Marguerite  
Archie-Hudson  
(Los Angeles)

Sheila  
Kuehl  
(Santa Monica)

Louis  
Caldera  
(Los Angeles)

Barbara  
Alby  
(Fair Oaks)

Larry  
Bowler  
(Elk Grove)

Scott  
Baugh  
(Huntington  
Beach)

Paula  
Boland  
(Granada  
Hills)

Dick  
Ackerman  
(Fullerton)

Trice  
Harvey  
(Bakersfield)

Curtis R.  
Tucker, Jr.  
(Inglewood)

Dan  
Hauser  
(Arcata)

Barbara  
Lee  
(Oakland)

Robert J.  
Campbell  
(Martinez)

Valerie  
Brown  
(Kenwood)

Mike  
Machado  
(Linden)

Vacancy  
21st Dist.

Bill  
Morrow  
(Oceanside)

Mickey  
Conroy  
(Orange)

Jim  
Morrissey  
(Santa Ana)

James L.  
Brulte  
(Rancho  
Cucamonga)

Curt  
Pringle  
(Garden  
Grove)

John L.  
Burton  
(San  
Francisco)

Carole  
Migden  
(San Francisco)

Ron Pane  
(Sgt.-at-Arms)

T.V. CAMERA

TELEVISION

T.V. CAMERA

## *The Committee System*

With the volume of legislation that is introduced and considered, it is impossible for each Member of the Legislature to review in detail all of the changes and additions in existing law that are proposed. Any such proposal is embodied in what is called a “bill”. It is expected that the Legislature will consider, along with a great number of other legislative measures, approximately 6,500 bills during the current two-year session. In order to cope with the multitude of bills and the variety of subject matter introduced, a system of policy committees has been established. The committees, each varying greatly in size and scope, may best be described as the basic working units of the Legislature.

In appointing Members to committees, considerable importance is attached to their previous experience and training. It is not unusual, therefore, that a majority of the membership of the Committees on Judiciary and Public Safety are attorneys, or that many of the members of the Committee on Education are teachers. This dividing of the House into committees of specialists makes it possible for the Legislature to consider in depth the numerous bills which are presented each session. The number and subject of the committees change from time to time to reflect the current areas of concern to the state.

Following a bill’s introduction in the House, it is referred to a committee where it may be scheduled for hearing. The hearing is the point at which the general public and interested parties are invited to testify in support or opposition to the bill. It is here, at the committee hearing, that many of the important policy questions are resolved.

Some bills require hearings by more than one committee, in which case a committee may re-refer the bill to another committee. For example, bills with monetary implications must be re-referred to the appropriate fiscal committee in each House. When testimony is completed, the policy or fiscal committee makes its decision on the proposed legislation and reports its recommendation to the House.

A bill may be amended at various times as it moves through the Houses. The bill must be reprinted each time an amendment is adopted by either House. All bill actions are printed in the DAILY FILES, JOURNALS AND HISTORIES.

If a bill is amended in the opposite House, it is returned to the House of Origin for concurrence in amendments. If the House of Origin does not concur, a Conference Committee Report must then be adopted by each House before the bill can be sent to the Governor.

## *Sessions of the Legislature*

As a result of a Constitutional Amendment adopted by the people in 1972, the California Legislature now meets in a continuous two-year session, convening on the first Monday in December of even-numbered years (e.g., 1996). Previously, the Legislature met in sessions of indeterminate length not to exceed one year. The present biennial session permits more extended and thorough study of the complex problems facing the state. It also eliminates the necessity of reintroducing and reprinting in the second year those bills which were not acted upon or were refused passage during the first year of the biennial session.

In addition, the Governor may, by proclamation, call the Legislature into session to consider and act upon specified subjects. Such sessions are known as extraordinary or special sessions. On these occasions the Legislature is limited to the consideration of the matters specified in the Governor’s Proclamation.

Bills enacted by October 2 of a given year (e.g., 1996) become effective on January 1 of the following year (e.g., 1997). Tax measures and bills that are necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, which are called urgency measures, take effect immediately upon being signed by the Governor. Bills enacted at extraordinary sessions become effective 91 days after the adjournment of that session.

In January 1982, the Legislature returned to the permanent Assembly and Senate chambers, which were renovated as part of the overall reconstruction of the old Capitol building. For six years prior, the Assembly and Senate met in temporary quarters that were constructed at the east end of the Capitol Annex. In remodeling, the Assembly and Senate chambers were restored to a turn-of-the-century motif. At the front of each chamber is a rostrum from which the Speaker of the Assembly and the Lieutenant Governor or the President pro Tempore of the Senate preside. Prominent in each of the chambers are elegant chandeliers which hang over the central aisle. The reconstruction project has provided California with one of the truly outstanding Capitol buildings in the United States.

At the opening of each day’s session, bills are introduced, read the first time and referred to the various committees. When the committees report the bills back to the House, they are placed on the Daily File, which is the agenda for the legislative day, and read a second time. The Constitution requires that the bills be read for the third time on a subsequent day. It is at this third reading that debate on the measure takes place. If the bill is passed, it is sent to the other House, where it follows a similar procedure. If the second House also approves, it is then sent to the Governor for his or her signature or veto.

The Assembly uses a computerized voting system. By pressing a red or green button at their desks, the Members record their votes “Yes” or “No”. The votes are displayed on two large panels on the wall at the front of the Chamber. These panels list the Member by name and indicate how the Member has voted. A green light indicates a “Yes” vote; a red light indicates a “No” vote. After every Member who wishes to vote has voted, the total is automatically tabulated, exhibited on the front panels and recorded on a ballot at the rostrum. A majority vote (41) of the elected Members will pass all but tax levies, urgency and appropriation bills or proposed constitutional amendments, all of which require a two-thirds vote (54).

In 1994, at the request of the California Assembly, the Legislative Data Center developed an automated Floor system to enhance access to legislative information for Assembly Members during Assembly Floor session.

The “Assembly Floor Automation System” provides touch screen capability on a laptop computer. The system displays Daily File information on-line as bills are taken-up on the Floor providing access to bill information (e.g., analysis, bill text, votes); and searches and displays additional bill information currently available in the Legislative Inquiry System.

In the Senate, voting is done by voice roll call. It requires 21 votes to pass a regular bill and 27 to pass the others.

## *Televising the Assembly*

To bring state government closer to the citizens of California, the State Assembly has instituted the California Assembly Television (CAT). Live, unedited, gavel-to-gavel coverage of Assembly sessions and committee hearings is now available to California homes via cable T.V.

Policy oversight of CAT is governed by the Assembly Committee on Televising the Assembly and Information Technology. The committee has made the television signals available to any bona fide news organization or educational institution. Coverage of Assembly sessions is used for local news broadcasts as well as instructional programs.

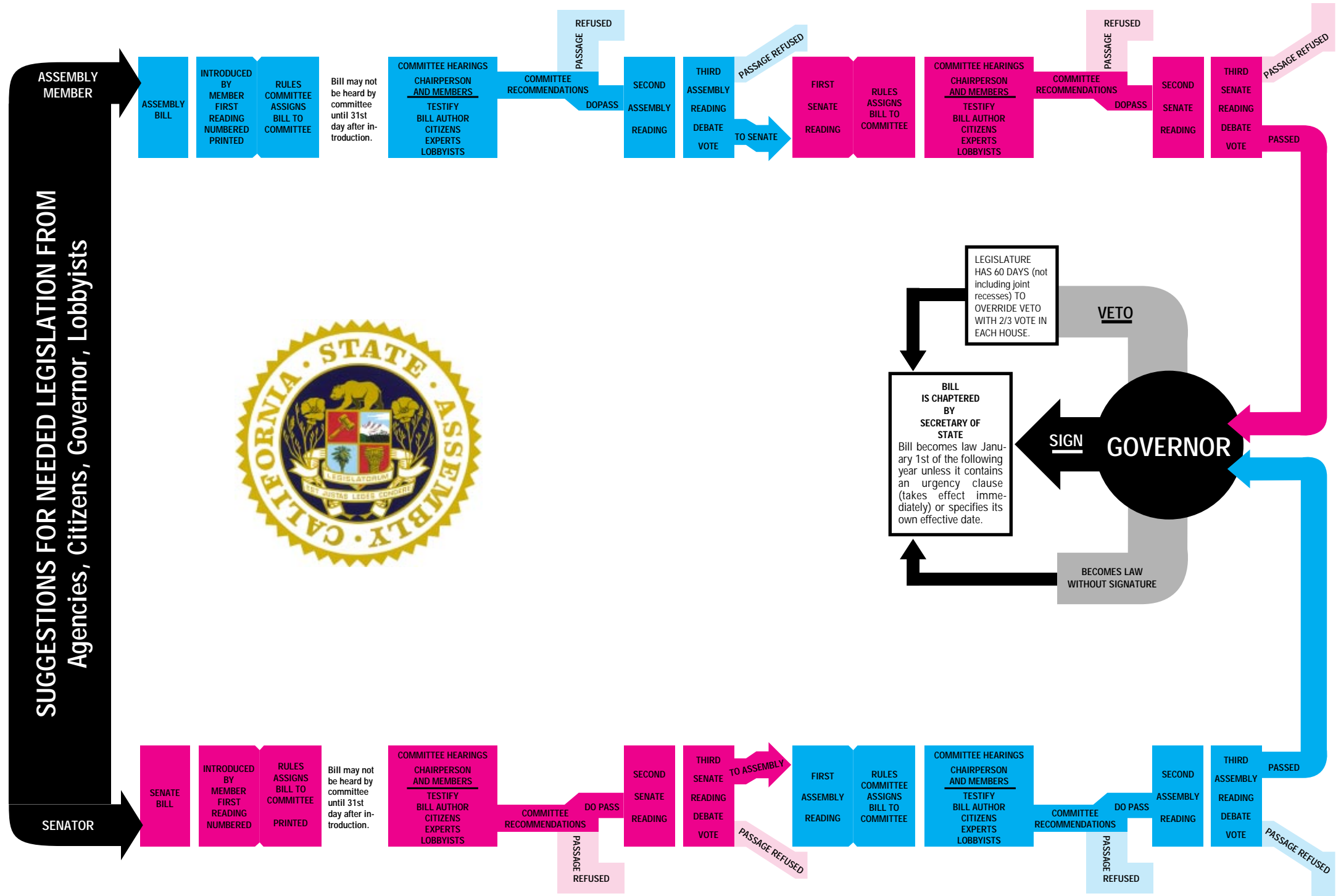




**California State Assembly 1995-1996 Session**



# The Life Cycle of Legislation



Although the legislative procedure can become more complicated, this chart shows the essential steps for passage of a bill.



# California Capitols

Shortly after the end of Mexican rule, Californians began to clamor for statehood. In 1849, a constitutional convention met at Colton Hall in Monterey and proposed a constitution, subsequently ratified by the people, which named San Jose as the first capitol.

In December 1849, the first Legislature convened in a two-story adobe hotel in San Jose. The city was composed of little more than huts, tents and clapboard buildings, and the general discomfort did little to endear the city to the legislators.

In 1851 a generous offer from General Vallejo induced the legislators to move the capitol to Vallejo where a frame building had been erected for their use. Since housing was virtually nonexistent, many of the members managed to secure lodging on the steamer *Empire*, which remained moored at a wharf during the session.

Confusion and inconvenience again brought stormy cries for relocation. After convening in Vallejo in 1852, the Legislature moved to Sacramento to finish the legislative session.

In 1853, the Legislature returned to Vallejo only to find conditions as inhospitable as before. To an exasperated membership, an offer from the community of Benicia for the use of its new city hall proved irresistible, and a bill was passed moving the seat of government to that city, where the legislative session finished.

While the legislative quarters were adequate, it became increasingly evident that Benicia itself was too small to serve as the capitol city. With this in mind, the Legislature determined that Sacramento would be the state's capitol and moved from Benicia in February 1854.

Sacramento offered its courthouse for immediate use and a building site for the permanent Capitol. Shortly after the close of the Session of 1854, the courthouse was razed by fire, but a new one was completed in time for the next session.

The new courthouse continued to serve as the home of the Legislature until 1869. This tenure was interrupted only once; during the winter of 1861–62 a severe flood prompted removal of the Legislature to the Exchange Building in San Francisco.

Construction on the permanent Capitol was begun in 1860, and, though not completed until 1874, the Legislature was able to occupy its Chambers in 1869. Except for a major “modernization” in 1908, the Capitol remained virtually unchanged until 1949 when additional space requirements resulted in the construction of the Capitol Annex. Completed in 1951, the Annex attaches to the east side of the old Capitol and houses legislative offices, committee rooms and the Governor's offices.

In 1976, a total reconstruction of the building was undertaken to strengthen and reinforce the weakening structure. This monumental project was completed in January 1982, and the old Capitol, restored to its turn-of-the-century decor, was again occupied by the Legislature and opened to the public.

*The State Capitol, Sacramento*



# California State Capitol Park

Capitol Park, consisting of 40 acres surrounding the capitol building, provides visitors with a display of one of the finest collections of trees representing the continents and climates of the world. Hundreds of species of trees grow in the park including cedars, pines, eucalyptus, cypress, fir and redwood. In addition to the unique collection of trees, the park offers smaller groves which showcase camellias, roses and varieties of cactus representing the California desert. Situated amid the foliage and flowers are many memorials dedicated by the people of California to the memory of, among others, peace officers, early California Native Americans and those who fought in the Vietnam war. Trees and remembrance are combined in scenic "Memorial Grove", consisting of saplings transplanted from southern Civil War battlefields in memory of the fallen.



Photo by State Capitol Museum

## State Seal

The Great Seal of the State of California was adopted by the Constitutional Convention of 1849. The Roman Goddess of Wisdom, Minerva, has at her feet a grizzly bear and clusters of grapes representing wildlife and agricultural richness. A miner works near the busy Sacramento River, below the Sierra Nevada peaks. The Greek motto "Eureka" (I have found it) probably refers to either the miner's discovery of gold or the expected entrance of California as a state of the Union. Near the upper edge of the seal are 31 stars representing the number of states with California's anticipated admission in 1850. The stained glass replica of the Seal depicted here is embedded in the ceiling of the second floor of the State Capitol in Sacramento.



## Bear Flag

The Bear Flag was adopted by the 1911 State Legislature as the State Flag of California. It is patterned after the historic flag raised at Sonoma on June 14, 1846 by a group of American settlers in revolt against Mexican rule. The flag was designed by William Todd on a piece of new unbleached cotton. The star imitated the lone star of Texas. A grizzly bear represented the many bears seen in the state. The words "California Republic" were placed beneath the star and bear. The Bear Flag was replaced on July 9, 1846, by the American Flag. The original flag was destroyed in the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906.





## State Flower

The Golden Poppy was selected as the official State Flower of California by the 1903 State Legislature. Also sometimes known as “The Flame Flower,” “La Amapola,” and “Copa de Oro” (Cup of Gold), it grows wild throughout the state.

## State Tree

The California Redwood was designated as the official State Tree of California by the 1937 State Legislature. Common in the geologic past throughout much of the northern hemisphere, it is now found only on the Pacific Coast. Many groves and stands of the towering trees are preserved in State and national parks and forests. There are two species. The Sierra Redwood is found in the Sierra Nevada mountain region. The Coast Redwood grows in the mountains and valleys along the central and northern coast of California and the southern coastal edge of Oregon. The Coast Redwood is the tallest known tree in the world, reaching heights in excess of 360 feet in California’s Humboldt County. The Sierra Redwood is the world’s most massive tree, with trunk diameters occasionally reaching 35 feet.



**Letters to Your Assembly Member at the  
State Capitol Should Be Addressed to:**

**MEMBER’S NAME  
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
POST OFFICE BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001**

## 1995–96 SESSION—ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

DIST.	NAME	CITY	DIST.	NAME	CITY
1.	Hauser, Dan	Arcata	41.	Kuehl, Sheila	Santa Monica
2.	Woods, Tom	Shasta	42.	Knox, Wally	Los Angeles
3.	Richter, Bernie	Chico	43.	Rogan, James E.	Glendale
4.	Knowles, David	Placerville	44.	Hoge, Bill	Pasadena
5.	Alby, Barbara	Fair Oaks	45.	Villaraigosa, Antonio	Los Angeles
6.	Mazzoni, Kerry	San Rafael	46.	Caldera, Louis	Los Angeles
7.	Brown, Valerie	Kenwood	47.	Murray, Kevin	Culver City
8.	Hannigan, Thomas W.	Solano	48.	Archie-Hudson, Marguerite	Los Angeles
9.	Isenberg, Phillip	Sacramento	49.	Martinez, Diane	Monterey Park
10.	Bowler, Larry	Elk Grove	50.	Escutia, Martha	Bell
11.	Campbell, Robert J.	Martinez	51.	Tucker, Curtis R., Jr.	Inglewood
12.	Burton, John L.	San Francisco	52.	Murray, Willard H., Jr.	Paramount
13.	Migden, Carole	San Francisco	53.	Bowen, Debra	Torrance
14.	Bates, Tom	Berkeley	54.	Kuykendall, Steve	Long Beach
15.	Rainey, Richard K.	Walnut Creek	55.	Vacant	
16.	Lee, Barbara	Oakland	56.	Hawkins, Phil	Cerritos
17.	Machado, Mike	Linden	57.	Gallegos, Martin	El Monte
18.	Sweeney, Michael	Hayward	58.	Napolitano, Grace Musquiz	Norwalk
19.	Speier, Jackie	South San Francisco	59.	Margett, Bob	Arcadia
20.	Figueroa, Liz	Fremont	60.	Miller, Gary	Diamond Bar
21.	Vacant		61.	Aguiar, Fred	Chino
22.	Vasconcellos, John	Santa Clara	62.	Baca, Joe	San Bernardino
23.	Cortese, Dominic L.	San Jose	63.	Brulte, Jim	Rancho Cucamonga
24.	Cunneen, Jim	San Jose	64.	Weggeland, Ted	Riverside
25.	House, George	Hughson	65.	Granlund, Brett	Yucaipa
26.	Cannella, Sal	Ceres	66.	Thompson, Bruce	Fallbrook
27.	McPherson, Bruce	Santa Cruz	67.	Baugh, Scott	Huntington Beach
28.	Frusetta, Peter	Tres Pinos	68.	Pringle, Curt	Garden Grove
29.	Poochigian, Charles	Fresno	69.	Morrissey, Jim	Santa Ana
30.	Setencich, Brian	Fresno	70.	Brewer, Marilyn	Irvine
31.	Bustamante, Cruz M.	Fresno	71.	Conroy, Mickey	Orange
32.	Harvey, Trice	Bakersfield	72.	Ackerman, Dick	Fullerton
33.	Bordonaro, Tom	Paso Robles	73.	Morrow, Bill	Oceanside
34.	Olberg, Keith	Victorville	74.	Kaloogian, Howard	Carlsbad
35.	Firestone, Brooks	Los Olivos	75.	Goldsmith, Jan	Poway
36.	Knight, William J. "Pete"	Palmdale	76.	Davis, Susan	San Diego
37.	Takasugi, Nao	Oxnard	77.	Baldwin, Steve	El Cajon
38.	Boland, Paula L.	Granada Hills	78.	Alpert, Dede	San Diego
39.	Katz, Richard	Sylmar	79.	Ducheny, Denise Moreno	Chula Vista
40.	Friedman, Barbara	Los Angeles	80.	Battin, Jim	La Quinta





## **The Seal of the Assembly of the State of California**

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